

News from the Random House Publishing Group

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On June 3, 2008, Random House will publish Salman Rushdie's new novel, **THE ENCHANTRESS OF FLORENCE**, a dazzling historical novel set in Renaissance Florence and the court of the great Mughal Empire.

“This new novel marks a bold departure for Salman Rushdie in terms of setting and subject matter,” comments Will Murphy, Rushdie’s editor at Random House. “It is an amazing display of his gifts as a storyteller and will undoubtedly draw many new readers to his already wide audience.”

Drawing on more than seven years of research, **THE ENCHANTRESS OF FLORENCE** is the story of a woman attempting to command her own destiny in a man’s world. It brings together two cities that barely know each other – the hedonistic Mughal capital, in which the brilliant emperor Akbar the Great wrestles daily with questions of belief, desire, and the treachery of his sons, and the equally sensual city of Florence, where Niccolò Machiavelli takes a starring role. A virtuoso feat of storytelling that mixes political intrigue and high drama, romance and magic, Rushdie's novel also reflects on the dangers that come when fantasy and reality grow too intertwined.

Rushdie's previous novel published by Random House, **Shalimar the Clown** (2005) was a *New York Times* bestseller. This March, Random House Trade Paperbacks will be repackaging and republishing three of Rushdie's earlier works, **The Satanic Verses**, **Shame**, and **The Jaguar Smile**.